

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3037

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

S E C R E T LOURENCO MARQUES 1023

E.O. 11652Y: GDS

TAGS: PINR

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: PORTUGUESE MILITARY LEADERS

REF: (A) STATE 222721 (B) LOURENCO MARQUES MARQUES 901

1. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO LOCATE ANYONE CURRENTLY IN MOZAMBIQUE WHO KNEW ANY OF THE GOP LEADERS PERSONALLY. IN SEPTEMBER, HOWEVER, AMARO MONTEIRO, FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE MOZAMBIQUE INFORMATION AND TOURISM DEPARTMENT WHO IS A CONSERVATIVE MONARCHIST NOW SERVING IN LUANDA, ANGOLA, DESCRIBED TO CONGEN OFFICER REED HIS IMPRESSIONS OF PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES AND MINISTER OTELO DE CARVALHO, BOTH OF WHOM HE KNEW PERSONALLY.

2. MONTEIRO SAID HE HAD SERVED WITH GONCALVES IN 1958 IN LISBON. IN HIS OPINION, GONCALVES WAS WITHOUT DOUBT THE MOST INDECISIVE MAN HE HAD EVER MET. GONCALVES WAS HOPELESS IN PERSONAL RELATIONS AND ALWAYS ASKED MONTEIRO TO HANDLE DISCIPLINARY SITUATIONS INVOLVING SUBORDINATES. MONTEIRO WAS CONVINCED THAT EVEN IN THOSE DAYS GONCALVES WAS A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND THAT HE IS NOW TOTALLY GUIDED BY COMMUNIST MINISTER ALVARO CUNHA. MONTEIRO EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT, DESPITE HIS POOR LEADERSHIP QUALITIES, GONCALVES IS A HIGHLY INTELLIGENT MAN.

3. MONTEIRO SAID HE SERVED WITH CARVALHO IN GUINEA (DATE

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NOT GIVEN). CARVALHO IMPRESSED HIM AS A BORN LEADER-- HANDSOME,

ATHLETIC, DYNAMIC, FORCEFUL. NONETHELESS, MONTEIRO FOUND HIM LACKING INTELLECTUALLY, AFFIRMING THAT EVEN A CASUAL CONVERSATION WITH CARVALHO REVEALED HIS DEFICIENT "BACKGROUND" AND EDUCATION.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE MONTEIRO'S RIGHTIST POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE, IT MIGHT BE WORTH SEEKING OUT FURTHER PERSONAL BACKGROUND ON GONCALVES AND CARVALHO FROM HIM IF HE CAN BE LOCATED IN LUANDA. WALKER

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